

# Relative clauses

# Defining relative clauses

Julia is the woman **who/that** works with me.

It is a book **which / that** tells you how to relax.

That is the house **where** I was born.

That is the boy **whose** father plays for Real Madrid.

He is the man **(who/ that)** I met on the plane.

# Defining relative clauses

- To give important information about a person , place or thing use a relative clause (= a relative pronoun + verb)
- Use the relative pronouns *who* for people, *which* for things and *where* for places. Use *whose* to mean 'of who/of which'.
- You can use *that* instead of *who* or *which*.
- *Who*, *which* and *that* can be omitted when the verbs in the main clause and the relative clause have a different subject, e.g. *He is the man I met on the plane.* (the subject of *met* is *I*, so it is not necessary to put *who*.)

## Non-defining relative clauses

This painting, **which** was painted in 1860, is worth one million.

Last week I visited my aunt, **who** is nearly 90 years old.

Burford, **where** my mother was born, is a beautiful town.

My neighbor, **whose** son goes to my son's school, has just re-married.

# Non-defining relative clauses

- If a relative clause gives extra, non-essential information (the sentence makes sense without it), you must put it between commas or a comma and a full stop.
- In these clauses, you CAN NOT leave out the relative pronoun (*who, which, where, whose*)
- In these clauses, you can not use *that* instead of *who/ which*.

# Complete the sentences with one word.

1. This is the beach ..... we used to come every summer.
2. It's the film .....is about Che Guevara's trip in South America.
3. His grandfather, ..... is eighty-seven, still works as a lawyer.
4. That's the boy ..... brother is a professional footballer.
5. The town ..... I grew up has changed a lot since I was young.
6. The Mona Lisa, ..... was painted in 1503, is worth millions of pounds.
7. Freddie's the man ..... met me at the station.

# Choose the correct answer:

1. The girl ..... was talking to you is the boss's daughter.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
2. Look! That's the man ..... son plays for Chelsea.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
3. The car was an invention ..... changed the world.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
4. That's the restaurant ..... I told you about.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
5. What was the name of your friend ..... wife is an actress?  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
6. It's the film ..... won all the Oscars last year.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose

7. This is the book ..... everybody is reading at the moment.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
8. The woman ..... this morning didn't leave a message.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
9. The man ..... car I crashed into is taking me to court.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose
10. We drove past the house ..... we used to live.  
**A-** where      **B-** which      **C-** who      **D-**whose



Cross out the relative pronoun if it is not necessary.

1. The man who I spoke to was tall and slim.
2. Which is the café that makes the best coffee?
3. Is that the man who you used to work for?
4. That is the restaurant which I was telling you about last week.
5. The person who I want to meet is Michael.
6. That is the film which won all the Oscars last year.